

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 03489 061332Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 L-03 HA-05 SY-05 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 /054 W

-----035738 070102Z /70

R 052120Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5619

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(☒) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part (☒) In Full

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 3489

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, SHUM

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS ACCUSATIONS AGAINST ARGENTINE NAVY

REF: BUENOS AIRES 3244

1. WE HAVE CONFIRMED THAT THE LOCAL OFFICES OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, THE AGENCE FRANCE PRESS, UPI AND THE FRENCH EMBASSY HERE, HAVE EACH RECEIVED A HANDWRITTEN LETTER AND DIAGRAMS PURPORTING TO DESCRIBE THE DETENTION AND INTERROGATION FACILITY LOCATED IN THE NAVY MECHANICAL SCHOOL GROUNDS AND CONTACTS -- INCLUDING WITH THE ABDUCTED FRENCH NUNS -- THE WRITER CLAIMS TO HAVE HAD WITH PRISONERS THERE WHILE HIMSELF INTERNED. THESE LETTERS APPEAR ALMOST IDENTICAL TO THE LETTER RECEIVED BY THIS EMBASSY WHICH WAS REPORTED IN REFTEL.

2. THE NEWS AGENCIES HAVE DECIDED NOT TO RUN A STORY ON THE REPORT. AS A FRENCH EMBASSY OFFICIAL COMMENTED, "THE LETTERS ARE TOO GOOD".

3. THE PRESENT CONSENSUS IS THAT THE LETTERS ARE EITHER A PASTICHE OF FACTS AND SPECULATIONS PUT TOGETHER BY THE MONTONEROS OR A PROVOCATION WORKED UP BY AN ARMY OR SOME OTHER INTELLIGENCE UNIT.

PAGE 02 BUENOS 03489 061332Z

IF THE STORY IS OF MONTONERO ORIGIN, IT WILL PROBABLY SURFACE IN EUROPE OR MEXICO SHORTLY,

Current Class: [REDACTED]

Page: 1

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